Missing of gold bars from Palam Airport, New Delhi

*105. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 kg. gold bars belonging to State Bank of India which were booked on I.C. flight No. 658 on May 7, 2004 from Mumbai Airport were found missing from the Palam Airport, New Delhi after the parcel was off-loaded alongwith other parcels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said gold bars have been traced; and

(d) if not, what action Government have taken against the concerned officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) SBI Overseas Branch, Mumbai had booked two parcels for Delhi weighing 51 kgs. containing gold bars under Consignment Note No. 39527493. The parcels were consigned to M/s. Group 4 Securitas, Cash Services, Delhi, The parcels were sent from Mumbai to Delhi by flight IC-658 of 7th May, 2004. One of the parcels weighing 25.4 kgs. was found missing at IGI Airport, New Delhi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) FIR in the matter has been lodged with police. Indian Airlines also conducted a preliminary enquiry in the matter and based on its report two staff were placed under suspension. Further departmental proceedings are under process.

Review of National Water Policy

*106. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to comprehensively review the project of inter-linking of rivers in its totality;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to review the National Water Policy;

(c) if so, the details of areas which Government are thinking to review; and

(d) what are the reasons for such a review?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Common Minimum Programme of the Government envisages comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of the linking of the rivers of the country in a fully consultative manner.

(b) to (d) The National Water Policy provides for periodical revision as and when need arises. The Government may, if required, consider revising the National Water Policy in view of the Common Minimum Programme.

Exploration of oil and gas in Bihar

†*107. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether drilling and other exploration works have been undertaken to find out petroleum and natural gas in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details and results thereof; and

(c) the details of future plans in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The exploration efforts in the State of Bihar were intiated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in 1961. Till date, ONGC has acquired 17,595 stations of Gravity-Magnetic Data, 6,566 Ground Line Kilometers (GLK) of 2-D seismic Data. The first exploratory well, Raxaul-1 was drilled by ONGC in 1963. Thereafter, 5 more exploratory wells were drilled by ONGC in the State of Bihar. All the drilled wells were found to be devoid of hydrocarbons.

In 1997-98, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) had carried out 35 GLK of 2-D seismic data in the State of Bihar to upgrade geological data. Thereafter, 1,135 GLK of 2-D seismic data was acquired by DGH in 2002-03. On the basis of these surveys and the exploration work carried

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.